

## **COUNTY OF ORANGE**

## RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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April 3, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman California Coastal Conservancy 1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chair Bosco and Directors:

The County of Orange has supported the successful efforts of Laguna Canyon Foundation's use of funding from the 2000 state park bond for additional parkland acquisitions, pre-acquisition support activities and the interpretive exhibits for the Nix Nature Center at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. Their efforts have increased the South Coast Wilderness system of parks and preserves by 238 acres. The more than 20,000 acres of coastal canyon land includes two county parks.

Laguna Canyon Foundation has two requests before your board at your April 24, 2008 meeting. The requests include \$120,000 for pre-acquisition support activities and \$172,000 for the purchase of the 10.38-acre SBD property. OC Parks supports these funding requests.

With respect to the SBD property, OC Parks staff will recommend to the Orange County Board of Supervisors that the County lease the property from the City of Laguna Beach who will hold fee title. This will allow the land to be managed as part of the County's Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and is consistent with previous acquisitions in this area.

We appreciate the cooperative partnership with the City of Laguna Beach and the Laguna Canyon Foundation to support efforts that support the intent of the park bond measure. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely

Mark Denny, Director Orange County Parks

cc: Pat Bates, Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Deborah Ruddock, California Coastal Conservancy

Ken Frank, City of Laguna Beach Laguna Canyon Foundation